Abstract of the Disclosure

This invention provides β -cyclodextrin dimers and phthalocyanines which can be used in photodynamic therapy of cancer. The phthalocyanine compounds have the structure:



wherein X is C_1-C_4 alkylene, NH, $N(C_1-C_4$ alkyl), O, or S;

wherein R_1 is $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2^-$, $-N^+(CH_3)_3$, $-SO_3H$, or $-SO_3^-$; and

wherein R is

$$R_2$$
 C R_2 or

where the dashed lines indicate the attachments to X, and where R_2 is $C_1\text{--}C_3$ alkyl.